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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

DERRICK AND KAREN DOUGLAS,

Complainants,

v.

CASE NO. PUE010661

SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA GAS COMPANY,

Respondent.

HEARING EXAMINER'S RULING

December 27, 2001

On November 26, 2001, Derrick and Karen Douglas ("the Douglasses" or "Complainants") filed a formal complaint with the Commission against Southwestern Virginia Gas Company ("Southwestern" or "the Company"). The Complainants requested the Commission to initiate an investigation concerning certain allegations against the Company.

By Preliminary Order dated December 14, 2001, the Commission docketed this proceeding, assigned the matter to a Hearing Examiner, and ordered Southwestern to file an Answer to the allegations made in the complaint on or before December 20, 2001.

On December 20, 2001, the Company filed an Answer wherein it denied the allegations. I now find that a hearing date and procedural schedule should be established. Accordingly,

IT IS DIRECTED:

(1) That a hearing on this matter is hereby scheduled for January 24, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, Room 202, 55 Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia;

(2) That on or before January 15, 2002, the Complainants shall file with the Clerk of the Commission any testimony and exhibits they intend to present at the hearing. They shall also on the same day serve a copy upon counsel for Southwestern: Jason T. Jacoby, Esquire, Hunton & Williams, Riverfront Plaza, East Tower, 951 East Byrd Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219-4074;

(3) That, on or before January 22, 2002, the Commission's Staff shall file a report of the findings of its investigation concerning the allegations. The Staff also shall serve on the same day a copy upon counsel for the Company and upon the Complainants and their counsel, Mark T. Williams, Esquire, Williams, Morrison, Light & Moreau, 317 Patton Street, Danville, Virginia 24541; and

(4) That, on or before January 22, 2002, the Company shall file with the Clerk of the Commission any testimony and exhibits it intends to present in rebuttal and shall serve on the same day a copy upon the Complainants and their counsel; and upon counsel to the Commission's Staff.

Michael D. Thomas
Hearing Examiner